

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 04474 291435Z

43

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 FDRE-00 EA-06 OPR-02 A-01

H-02 SCA-01 AID-05 VO-03 SR-02 ORM-01 SS-15 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /066 W
----- 094134

O 291350Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8559

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 4474

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: AEMG VE

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

1. VENEZUELA HAS FELT REMOTE FROM VIETNAM AND THEREFORE LOCAL INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR EVENTS IN THAT COUNTRY HAVE NOT BEEN GREAT. GIVEN THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, ESPECIALLY AMONG UNSKILLED AORKDERS (PRESIDENT PEREZ PUBLICLY CLAIMS 16 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE IS UNEMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED); THE EXISTENCE OF PERHAPS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS, MOSTLY COLOMBIANS, IN VENEZUELA; AND VENEZUELA'S NATURAL AFFINITY FOR IMMIGRANTS OF EUROPEAN, ESPECIALLY LATIN, ORIGIN, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES VENEZUELA WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE GREATLY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHOSE BACKGROUND IS SO DISSIMILAR TO THAT OF THE IMMIGRANTS VENEZUELA HAS CUSTOMARILY RECEIVED, ESPECIALLY IF THE GOV HAD TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID TO GET THE REFUGEES ON THEIR FEET AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL.

2. HOWEVER, THE PLIGHT OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY THE ORPHANS, HAS STRUCK A SYMPATHETIC CHORD AMONG MANY VENEZUELANS (THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES CONCERNING ADOPTION). IN ADDITION, AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, PRESIDENT PEREZ
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 04474 291435Z

HAS EMBARKED UPON A CONCERTED EFFORT FOR VENEZUELA TO ASSERT

LEADERSHIP IN THE HEMISPHERE AND TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE IN THE THIRD WORLD. PRESIDENT PEREZ IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT OIL-RICH VENEZUELA'S IMAGE IN THE WORLD, AND IS SEEKING TO IMPROVE IT.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE KEY TO A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE GOV IN THIS MATTER IS TO ATTRACT THE INTEREST OF PRESIDENT PEREZ, WHO IS INVOLVED IN ALL KEY DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GOV. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT IF WE WERE TO BE PROVIDED WITH A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT PEREZ ASKING HIS ASSISTANCE IN RE-SETTLING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN VENEZUELA, PEREZ MIGHT VERY WELL MAKE A POSITIVE RESPONSE, SEIZING UPON THE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER HIS FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES BY DEMONSTRATING TO THE WORLD VENEZUELA'S HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR VICTIMS OF MISFORTUNE AND VENEZUELA'S ABILITY, VIA ITS RAPIDLY- DEVELOPING ECONOMY, TO ABSORB NEW SETTLERS. A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, IN ADDITION TO OBTAINING THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF AND THEREFORE REACTION FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVT HERE, WOULD ALSO UNDERSCORE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE USG VIEWS THE PROBLEM AND OUR EFFORTS TO MEET IT.

4. WE WILL DELAY OUR APPROACH TO THE GOV ON THIS MATTER UNTIL WE RECEIVE THE DEPT'S RESPONSE.
ASENCIO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, REFUGEE RELIEF, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA04474
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0134
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975045/aaaaadvp.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 97854
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
TAGS: AEMR, VE, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006